

**Q: Now that the new commercial gate is open and moved further down the road, can we look at getting the flightline gate northwest of the old gate (bldg 1700) opened. Opening this gate would help with the traffic and access for the members working at ALS, Tower, SERE and even LRS members working in bldg 618. Currently members use the access gate by bldg 410 to get to said locations. During exercises the gate by the jet engine test cell is open to detour around the exercise play area.**

**The gate in question has a "cattle guard" in place to prevent deer from entering the airfield and it is not a direct access to the airfield. If security is of concern a few well placed barriers would eliminate direct access.**

**Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter**

Unfortunately, to ensure a layered defense we control access to the airfield control area and purposefully reduce the number of entry points. While somewhat inconvenient, this is a conscious act to develop defense in depth.

**Q: With the winter months soon around the corner is it possible that the PRIDE hanger could be opened during the night? Some individuals, like myself, who work the mid shift would like to use the PRIDE hanger to run at night when the gym is closed as this works better with our shift. Currently we run the track around the lakes, but when winter sets in that will simply not be an option. If it is an issue of security would it be possible that the mike sup. Could get issued a key that could be sign out by each squadron?**

You can already sign out a key after hours--any valid ID holder can drop by the Pinetree Inn and get the key from the front desk (already open Monday-Friday 0430 - 2330, and Saturday-Sunday 0630 - 2330). We're working hard to balance security and availability of this valuable asset.

**Q: Is there any way we could have the gate guards checking not only ID cards but driver's licenses as we enter base?**

**I think we'd be surprised to see how many Airmen or depends are driving without a license.**

No. We do random checks to catch this kind of problem, but more would be impractical.

**Q: I attended the OG Commanders call the other day and he informed us of a million dollar grant that was given in order to stop drunk driving. A person stood up and said that they bought cop cars and hired more police officers. I do not think that this was efficient. I sat down and thought of what would be a smarter approach to this problem.**

If you go downtown there isn't really a lot of places to park your vehicle and I know that a lot of Airman don't trust the people downtown, So I was thinking what if there was a place for them to park and what if some of those police or even maybe higher ranking volunteers could perform breathalyzer tests. If they are over the limit then there would be resources there to take them home. Without being afraid of getting in trouble. If someone is in party mode and is drunk they don't think about 385-RIDE, it's just onto the next spot. This is just a ruff example

**of something that might help. If we stop it where it's actually starting then we might be able to succeed. If we aren't stopping it till the gate then we are never going to fix the problem. If something like this was started I believe our numbers would go down. Just wanting to know what your thoughts were on this idea. Thank you for your time.**

Our Airmen don't need to do any deep thinking about how the city spends their money to stop drunk drivers--they need to think deeply about how they can act to build the right culture on Ellsworth. If anyone thinks they might need a breathalyzer, they need to call 385-RIDE, not try to sneak in under the wire. Avoid the problem--pick up the phone and call a wingman. Then return the favor, and volunteer to drive a night.

**Q: Sir, as I go around the new housing in Rushmore heights I see some bus shelters but they are few and far between. I know last year some bus stops had an upwards of 30 kids in the mornings. Now that all ages catch the bus at the same time there are even more waiting to catch the bus. As the weather is turning colder and the wind is blowing more the kids could use a little more protection from the elements. Though it doesn't rain often when it does that puts them standing in the rain until they can get in the dry comfort of the bus. Is there plans for constructing shelters at all stop locations and if not would it be possible to do something like that. I work here in the structures shop and given the approval we can have them up in no time.**

Thanks for the idea--we've got our Civil Engineer Squadron looking into feasibility. It's a little more complicated than it might appear, but we're investigating.

**Q: I currently reside in Dakota Ridge/Fox Meadows; and I attended the latest town hall meeting earlier this month. At the meeting the RCHD home-owners said that they had talked to the utility companies (electric, gas, trash); and make it so that the lessee would not be required to pay security deposits, hook-up or change-over fees.**

**That does not seem to be the case. When I called to have the electric and trash transferred to my name, the companies were requiring a security or transfer deposit. I then called the Fox Meadows housing office, and Jennifer verified that the RCHD representatives did state that there would not be a fee. Jennifer said that she would confirm with the "boss" and call me back. However to date, I have not received any call-backs. Sir, as I recalled, you were in attendance at the last meeting. Is that what you heard as well; and is there any way that we can get the definitive word on whether we are exempt from the security/transfer fees? Thank you for your consideration.**

While this is outside of the wing's purview, the housing office staff called the utility companies and confirmed that unless customers have had a history of delinquency on paying their utility bills, the only fee required is a \$20.00 set up fee with Black Hills Power company. When dealing with the Rapid City Public Works, make sure you indicate you are just changing the name on the account and not requesting a "new account". There should be no charge for changing the name on the account. We have also contacted the property manager at Fox Meadows to ensure she has the same information.

**Q: Are there any plans to bring another pediatrician to Ellsworth? Although we love our children to see the pediatrician on base, we very rarely are able to get an appointment with him and are not allowed to see another provider at the clinic when he is not available. Today my daughter and I sat at Rapid Care for 3 hours and 40 minutes to be seen for an ear infection (which took about 4 minutes). At least half of the people in the waiting room at Rapid Care were military families.**

Unfortunately, our population only rates one pediatrician (1 per 1500 kids—we have 1406). The Medical Group is working to move older children to family practice to best organize our resources. Despite this work, Pediatric care will likely continue to be a scarce resource under high demand.